

# CertAlert

DOT/Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Region Airports Division,  
Airport Certification Safety Team (ASO-620), P.O. Box 20636, Atlanta, Georgia 30320  
(404) 305-6700; FAX: (404) 305-6730

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## **Airport Planning for Pandemic Flu, including H1N1 (Swine Flu)**

To: All 14 CFR part 139 Airport Operators  
Attention: Airfield Operations Department

The recent spread of the H1N1 (Swine Flu) highlights the need to encourage airport operators that do not already have Pandemic Flu plans to develop a plan for their airport.

In 2006, there was National concern about the potential for Bird Flu to mutate into a strain that could be easily transmitted to humans and passed from human to human. As this would be a new virus strain, humans would not have any built up immunity and the rapid spread could result in a pandemic. Planning assumptions from the Centers for Disease Control indicated that employers could expect up to 30% of employees to be absent during a pandemic because they were either sick, taking care of sick family, or practicing social distancing. During that time many airports developed Pandemic Flu Plans.

The recent rise of the H1Ni virus (Swine Flu) was another reminder that a mutated influenza virus could mutate at any time and possibly result in a pandemic. We encourage airports to revisit their pandemic planning and send us a copy of your plan for the files in our office. For airports that do not currently have a pandemic flu plan, we encourage you to create and maintain a plan. Attached is an information sheet that you can use to report your status to this office. Fill it out and reply back to this email. In addition, if you have a plan, please send us a copy by June 12, 2009.

An airport Pandemic Flu Plan should consider best practices and guidance that is available from the Center for Disease Control, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), airport associations. Others include the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Annex entitled "Pandemic Influenza, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery, Guide for critical infrastructure and key resources" at: <http://www.dot.gov/pandemicflu/pdf/aviation.pdf>

Airports Council International North America (ACI-NA) and ICAO have recently updated the attached document on airports preparedness guidelines for outbreaks of communicable disease.

**Please fill the form on the next page and return it to us:**

**To:            FAA, Airport Certification Safety Inspection Team**  
[Please email back to us or fax to (404) 305-6730]

**From:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Airport Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Airport Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a Pandemic Flu Plan for the airport? ☐ Yes; ☐ No

If Yes, what is the date of your Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you revised/reviewed the Plan? ☐ Yes; ☐ No

If Yes, what was the date of the review: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please remember to send a copy of your Plan to:**

Federal Aviation Administration  
ATTN: Airports Division, ASO-620  
P. O. Box 20636  
Atlanta, GA 30320

**If you do not have a plan, we encourage you to do so. If 30% of your employees are out because of a pandemic flu, we are concerned about how you will meet the requirements of 14 CFR part 139 while in operation.**

Are in the process of developing a plan now? ☐ Yes; ☐ No

Are you thinking about developing a plan in the future? ☐ Yes; ☐ No

If you are in the process of developing a plan, please list an approximate date of completion:

\_\_\_\_\_

Let us know if you are **not** planning to develop a Pandemic Flu Plan at this time **or** in the future.  
☐ No plans at this time.